

Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ method of claim [[1]] 20, said metal oxides being selected from the group consisting of MgO, CeO₂, AgO, SrO, BaO, CaO, ZnO, Al₂O₃, TiO₂, ZrO₂, FeO, V₂O₃, V₂O₅, Mn₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, NiO, CuO, and Ag₂O and mixtures thereof.
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ method of claim 2, said metal oxide comprising MgO.
4. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ method of claim [[1]] 20, said mixture including a suspension agent for said particles.
5. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ method of claim 4, said suspension agent selected from the group consisting of pentane and water.
6. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ method of claim [[1]] 20, said particles comprising metal oxide composites made up of a first metal oxide at least partially coated with a second, different metal oxide.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ method of claim [[1]] 20, said particles being present as a self-sustaining body formed of a plurality of agglomerated particles.
8. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ method of claim [[1]] 20, said propellant being nitrogen gas.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ method of claim [[9]] 24, said metal oxide and metal hydroxide parties each respectively selected from the group consisting of alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, transition metal, and lanthanide oxides and hydroxides and mixtures thereof.
11. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ method of claim 10, said metal oxides being selected from the group consisting of MgO, CeO₂, AgO, SrO, BaO, CaO, ZnO, Al₂O₃, TiO₂, ZrO₂, FeO, V₂O₃, V₂O₅, Mn₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, NiO, CuO, SiO₂, and Ag₂O and mixtures thereof.
12. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ method of claim 11, said metal oxide being MgO.
13. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ method of claim [[9]] 24, said suspension agent selected from the group consisting of pentane and water.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ method of claim [[14]] 25, said metal oxide and metal hydroxide parties each respectively selected from the group consisting of alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, transition metal, and lanthanide oxides and hydroxides, and mixtures thereof.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ method of claim 15, said metal oxides being selected from the group consisting of MgO, CeO₂, AgO, SrO, BaO, CaO, ZnO, Al₂O₃, TiO₂, ZrO₂, FeO, V₂O₃, V₂O₅, Mn₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, NiO, CuO, SiO₂, and Ag₂O and mixtures thereof.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ method of claim 16, said metal oxide being MgO.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ method of claim [[14]] 25, said mixture including a suspension agent for said particles.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ method of claim 18, said suspension agent selected from the group consisting of pentane and water.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of at least partially decontaminating an area subjected to an undesirable chemical or biological agent, comprising the step of spraying the mixture of claim 1 adjacent said area a mixture adapted for placement within a container, said mixture comprising

particles selected from the group consisting of metal oxide particles, metal hydroxide particles, and mixtures thereof, said particles having a surface area of at least about 70 m²/g, and a propellant.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, said area comprising a surface.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, said surface comprising a textured surface of a member selected from the group consisting of wallboard, metal panel, ceiling tile, office panel, cement, and carpet.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20, said undesirable chemical or biological agent being an airborne agent.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of at least partially decontaminating an area subjected to an undesirable chemical or biological agent, comprising the step of spraying ~~the mixture of claim 9~~ adjacent said area a mixture adapted for placement within a container, said mixture consisting essentially of particles selected from the group consisting of metal oxide and metal hydroxide particles and mixtures thereof, a suspension agent for said particles, and a propellant.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of at least partially decontaminating an area subjected to an undesirable chemical or biological agent, comprising the step of spraying ~~the mixture of claim 14~~ adjacent said area a non-aqueous mixture adapted for placement within a container, said mixture

comprising particles selected from the group consisting of metal oxide and metal hydroxide particles and mixtures thereof, said particles having an average crystallite size of up to about 20 nm, and a propellant.